

Practical money-saving



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Many people, particularly those not used to tracking their daily spending, might initially find it a challenge to live on a budget. Police Credit Union helps members by providing a budget calculator on its website, along with practical, step-by-step money-saving tips and product suggestions.

Book in for a free financial health check

To establish a savings plan, you need to identify what you really need as opposed to items you merely want. You might want the latest fashion item or electronic gadget, but you should focus on the most important goals – a car, deposit for a home or even retirement. You might want the lot, but you've got to prioritize.

PCU product suggestion – for help to establish a budget, check out the calculators on our website or visit a PCU branch for a free financial health check.

Minimize existing debt

Make regular payments off your cards or personal loans. Aim to pay cash whenever possible; and, if you decide to make a credit-card purchase, be prepared to pay off the balance monthly, as this will save a lot of money by avoiding interest charges.

PCU product suggestion – ensure you choose a credit card with a low interest rate and no annual fee, such as the PCU extralite credit card which has one of the lowest interest rates in Australia plus no annual fee. You can also consider a debt consolidation loan to combine all your debts into one personal loan with a lower interest rate to reduce your total payments.

Reduce current expenditure and maximize savings

Consider these money-saving ideas:

- » Take your lunch to work.
- » Place your loose change into a savings jar at the end of each day.
- » Use lay-by during the year to shop for Christmas presents.
- » Make sure you have a savings or access account for which you don't pay any monthly account-keeping fees.

PCU product suggestion –

PCU offers a wide range of savings accounts, from the Christmas Club (only accessible between November and January each year) to Focus Saver (pays a bonus interest rate for disciplined savers) and the iSavings account (pays market-leading interest rates on amounts over \$5,000). You can make deposits direct from your pay and the best thing is there are no monthly or account-keeping fees charged, so every cent you deposit is yours to use.

Review your home loan

For most people, a mortgage will be the largest single expense in their budget. Not comparing interest rates and ongoing fees could cost you thousands of dollars over the term of the mortgage.

Don't rely on mortgage brokers to find you the best loan as they are paid by the mortgage provider and can act in their own interests by

recommending a loan that pays the highest levels of commission.

PCU product suggestion – PCU has a range of fully featured home loans that provide flexibility, low interest rates, no monthly fees, flexible repayment options and easy approval. If you have a home loan elsewhere, you could save thousands of dollars by refinancing to PCU.

Combine your insurance policies

Most of us pay our car, home and contents insurance premiums by habit, rarely if ever making comparisons. With many families' insurance costs totalling over \$2,000 a year, a 10 per cent saving equates to \$200 annually.

PCU product suggestion –

PCU provides a 10 per cent discount for Platinum Advantage members in addition to the standard 10 per cent multi-policy discount which is available if you combine your car and home and contents insurance.

This increases the average savings on a family policy of \$2,000 per annum to \$400. PCU also provides landlord, boat, caravan and motorcycle insurance, so get a quote from PCU today and see how much you could save.



*Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. Information is general in nature and consider your own circumstances and the Information statements or product disclosure statements before taking out any product. All products except insurance issued by Police Credit Union ABN 30 087 651 205 AFS 238991. Insurance issued by QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited ABN 78 003 191 035 AFS Licence 239545.